The Orations and Lecture List - 2017

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Oration</th>
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| WBro Bernard Hope, PAGDC, PPJGW, ProvGOrat | 1. Enjoy! “Freemasonry should be fun.”  
2. Why still bother with the Ritual?  
3. The Temple.  
4. The History of Tracing Boards.  
5. Jacob’s Ladder.  
6. The Colours of the Craft.  
7. King Solomon – A Man of Wisdom or Folly?  
10. What Happened to the Trowel?  
12. The Hand of Friendship.  
14. Five Points of Fellowship.  
15. That the world may know.  
17. Meek, humble and resigned.  
18. Questions and answers. | 10-15 minute + discussion |
| WBro John Parker PAGReg, PPJGW. | | |
| ExComp John Parker PGSdB, PAPGP | 1. Lectures on the Banners of Vigilance Chapter No. 111 – JCP version with illustration. This came (via R Snaith) from the late Lex Thomson, PDGSupt.  
4. Putting Enjoyment into Masonry.  
5. Strangers Whence Come You. | | |
| ExCom Ray Snaith PGSwdB, PDepGSupt | Royal Arch Symbolism and its relevance to the Supreme Grand Chapter Certificate. This is a series of talks focusing on the layout of a Royal Arch Chapter; its ornaments, furniture and jewels. The origin and development of its symbolism and indissoluble link with the Craft. | |
| 1. | “... in hoc signo vinces .......... By this sign ye shall enter” – (The origin of the Tau anf Triple Tau. Why it is regarded as the badge of a Royal Arch Mason? Its relevance and indissoluble link with Craft Freemasonry. Why is it omitted, along with other iconic symbols, from the SGC certificate? | 15 minutes |
| 2. | “Dixitque Deus Fiat Lux .......... and God said .......... let there be light” - (The significance of the symbolism of light and darkness in Chapter and Craft ceremonies. Anno Lucis and the three greater and lesser lights. The journey from east to west. Darkness into light, chequered pavement, Craft/vault. Sacred delta and the blazing star.) | 15 minutes |
| 3. | “in principio erat verbum ...... in the beginning was the word”  - (W 119.ords without action are worthless. Triad of words: Craft and Chapter. Morality of the tools: Craft and Chapter. Find your name recorded in the Book of Life (Revelations). “nun lucerna pedi meo verbu tuum et lux semitae tuae” (Vulgate: Psalm 119.v105)). | 15 minutes |
| 4. | Presentation and explanation of the Supreme Grand Chapter Certificate. (Short history of the certificate and the indissoluble link with Craft Masonry. Symbols of the Craft. Symbols of the Royal Arch. “splendour gloriae Dei”. “Civis mundi and cultor Dei”.) | 10 minutes max |

*Delivery: There are several ways to deliver this series of talks. Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 can all be delivered separately or in any combination with part 4 as fits the business of the evening. Because of the nature of the content it is undesirable to combine either 1, 2 or 3 for an extended talk.*

The talks listed here will delivered in a Chapter by one of the Executive Team or possibly another senior member. The talks are intended to illustrate parts of the Historical or Biblical content of the ceremony and will be delivered within a Chapter when there is

1. An Explanation of the Royal Arch.
2. Banners of the Royal Arch.
5. Setting the Scene.

*These are a series of new talks designed to inform companions about various areas of chapter ritual.*
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| PPJGW            | 2. Count Josef Boruwlaski.  
|                  | 4. The story of John Coustos. (The value of oaths and penalties).  
|                  | 5. The Mystery of the Winding Staircase.  

| WBro Dr Alan Bell | 1. Billy the Kid – A Masonic Conundrum.  
|                  | 3. Thoughts on the origins of Freemasonry.  

| WBro George Dixon | 1. The Mason and Masonic Law. (Dealing with “Masonic naughty men”.)  
| PPSGW            | 2. Making a Difference. (Challenging members in the current situation).  
|                  | 3. Mentoring. (The need for mentoring and the role of the Lodge Mentor).  
|                  | 4. Reasons for what we do - First Degree.  
|                  | 5. Reasons for what we do - Second Degree.  
|                  | 6. Reasons for what we do - Third Degree  

| PPGSuptWks        | 8. A walk around your lodge room.  
|                  | 9. Can Freemasonry survive?  
|                  | 10. Noah, the flood and his family.  
|                  | 11. The cost of Solomon’s Temple and the Little Lodge.  
|                  | 12. The keystone, heave-over and search.  
|                  | 13. The north-east corner and being routed in Freemasonry.  
|                  | 14. The origin of our lodge room.  
|                  | 15. The puzzle of the Third Degree.  
|                  | 16. The Royal Arch, present and the prospect.  

no other business. Chapters can request a via Provincial Office or Ex.Comp Gordon Brewis, PGStB - gbrewis@hotmail.com
# The Orations and Lecture List - 2017

| WBro Paul Heatherington  
| PAGReg, PProvGReg | 1. The essence of Masonry. The landmarks.  
| | 2. A taste of freedom.  
| | 3. Degrees beyond the Craft.  
| | 4. The future of the Craft, (1).  
| | 5. A light lecture.  
| | 6. A visit to an American lodge.  
| | 7. A visit to an Irish lodge.  
| | 8. But what is freedom.  
| | 9. The ceremonies.  
| | 10. Christianity and Freemasonry.  
| | 11. Cor, Ben and Con.  
| | 13. The duties of a Freemason.  
| | 15. Happiness, the grand design.  
| | 16. Let freedom ring.  
| | 17. Masonic question and answer session.  
| | 18. Masonic speeches.  
| | 21. The Queen and the Craft.  
| | 22. Reinvigorating a lodge.  
| | 23. The Royal Arch.  
| | 25. Styles of meetings.  
| | 27. The war is over.  

17. The Second Degree tracing board.  
18. The profit more who serve best. Rough Ashlars are always needed in Freemasonry.  
19. Understanding change and meek and candid behaviour.  
20. What is wrong with Freemasonry?  
21. Wiser, better and consequently better.
28. Visitors.

| WBro Bernard Hope PAGDC, PPJGW | 1. The Entry of HM Habibullah Khan, Emir of Afghanistan, into Freemasonry. This talk reinforces the positive aspects of Freemasonry. Starting with the causes of the Great War it relates to the secret initiation, passing and raising of the Emir of Afghanistan in India during his state visit of 1907 and the friendship and support he subsequently gave to the then British Empire, especially during what was to become known as World War I. | All at least 45-55 minutes long with the exception of No. 12/13. |
| | 2. The Sacking of the Jersey Masonic Temple during World War II. This talk details the destruction of the Jersey Masonic Temple by the invading troops of Nazi Germany in 1940. Some details for the talk were provided by the late W.Bro. Dennis Perrin, O.S.M., P.J.G.D., who was a native of Jersey (and was a personal friend). The talk explains why the Germans felt that the destruction was necessary and concludes with the work that was done in the post war years to restore the Temple to its former splendour and efforts to trace items which were stolen and taken to Germany. The talk is emphasises the positive aspects of Freemasonry in times of war. |  |
| | 3. Rudyard Kipling – Storyteller and Freemason. This talk tells of the life and times of Rudyard Kipling who besides being a famous writer and poet was also a Freemason. The talk describes Kipling's life, including the positive influence Freemasonry played as well as examples of how Freemasonry appeared in some of his novels and poems. |  |
| | 4. Prisoner-of-War Freemasonry. Freemasonry has offered solace to brethren in times of great personal trouble. No more so than the plight of brethren of many nations captured by the enemy in time of war. The talk looks at how brethren who became prisoners during distant and recent wars found Freemasonry helped them pass the time and improve the quality of their enforced captivity. Again the positive influence of Freemasonry is stressed in this fascinating, informative and most popular of the listed talks. Available for your Festive Board is a scale model of the prisoner-of-war camp Stalag Luft III, where The Great Escape took place in March 1944. |  |
| | 5. Misers, Masons and Murder. Freemason Frederick Henry Seddon was hanged for murder in 1912. What was his crime and what is the Masonic element to this story? This is the first of two talks about Masonic murderers. Everybody likes a murder story! |  |
| | 6. Midsomer Murder meets Masonry. Like the previous talk this is a tale of Masonic murder, ... but is it? The talk tells the story of Freemason Herbert Rowse Armstrong, a member of Loyal Hay Lodge No. 2382 and the only British |  |
1. Solicitor hanged for murder. What was his crime, how were other Freemasons involved and was he actually an innocent man? I have visited the “scene of the crime” (see above photograph - July 2007) and talked to locals about the story that still haunts their town. This talk is slightly longer than the others, but well worth it.

7. **John George Lambton and the Penshaw Monument.**
John George Lambton (the first Earl of Durham) was a leading politician and Freemason of his day. After his untimely death Penshaw Monument was built in his memory. The story of Lambton’s life and the building of this well known local (Masonic) landmark is the theme of this talk.

8. **From Betsy Ross to Twilight’s Last Gleaming.**
This is a short talk (approximately 40-45 minutes) is about the Freemason who wrote the words of the United States National Anthem during the Battle of Baltimore which was a battle in the War of 1812.

9. **It Really is “A Wonderful Life” – the story of Bro Frank Capra’s famous Christmas film.**
The film "It’s A Wonderful Life" is a regular Christmas favourite because of its interesting and thoroughly provoking story, but there is a story behind the story too. Why was it unsuccessful when it was made, why was it unsuccessful at the Oscars and lots of other facts that will surprise any audience. Although the basic story was not written by the director Bro Frank Capra, he included many scenes which represented his personal life and the basic tenets of Freemasonry. If you know the film you will enjoy the talk, if you don’t you might be tempted to go out and buy the DVD or at least wait until next Christmas. A good talk to have near Christmas or indeed any time of the year. The talk is very thought provoking making one think of the true value of family and friends.

**This talk combines both international history and Freemasonry.** It is the story of the first President of the United States of America, a man who led a fight against the British in the War of Independence. It is also the story of his involvement in Freemasonry. THIS TALK IS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE AS IT IS BEING EDITED AND IMPROVED.

11. **What is Freemasonry and should I consider joining it?** (Recruitment talk.)
This talk is designed for lodges having a recruitment evening although some wives, partners and other family members might find the information interesting. There is an expectation that the lodge will cooperate with the progress of the talk by remaining in regalia and providing various lodge materials for demonstration during the talk. The talk will only be successful if a goodly number of non-Masons are present, particularly if they are potentially interested in joining.

12. **The PowerPoint Second Degree Tracing Board (short).**
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2. The formation of the Province of Durham. |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
2. The square and the triangle.  
3. Why is the Mark essential to understanding present English Freemasonry. |
| WBro Dr Paul Mundell PPGReg | 1. WBro Dr A Broughton and a new wind of change. |
| WBro Keith Schaible PPGReg | 1. American Freemasonry.  
2. The demise of Freemasonry in Nazi Germany – part 1.  
3. The demise of Freemasonry in Nazi Germany – part 2. |
| WBro Ray Snaith, PAGDC, | 1. ‘Rosslyn Chapel ......veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols’ - An illuminated slide 35-40 mins |

The Second Degree Tracing Board is always a feature of the Second Degree ceremony, but this is a 21st century version of this part of the ceremony. WBro Bernard (who regularly give the tracing board explanation in his own lodge) gives this version while a series of appropriate slides are projected on the screen. Music also features in this version adding to the story line. It is recommended that this is not given when a candidate is going through his Second Degree ceremony as it is more appropriate for a rehearsal ceremony.

13. **The Building of the Wearside Masonic Temple.**
This short, though illustrated talk, will probably be of more interest to Sunderland Freemasons in general and in particular to those who actually meet in this building. During the growth years of Freemasonry (during the 1920 and the 1930s) the existing Masonic Hall in Park Terrace, Toward Road, Sunderland was unfit for the number of lodges and their members. The Masons of Sunderland therefore planned a brand new, state of the art building to meet these increasing needs. This talk explains who was behind this venture, details of the laying of the foundation stone, its dedication ceremony and what the building looked like in 1932. The talk concludes by detailing the changes in Freemasonry in Sunderland and how that affects the building today.
*(All talks are PowerPoint presentations).*
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<th>Speaker</th>
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<td>PPSGW</td>
<td>presentation in 6 parts: Prologue, Myth and Legend, VSL in Stone, Morality Symbols, Masonic Symbols, Discovery.</td>
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<td>2. ‘Whither the parallelepipedon’...... The central theme to the talk is a concept in the second paragraph of ‘An Explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board’. A Concept which is described, but never discerned, a concept with dimensions that are never diminished and a concept with a directive to the very heart of FM which never lacks spirit. The talk links basic Euclidean Geometry with extracts from the Craft Ritual’, ‘We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us’ (W S Churchill).</td>
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<td>3. ‘… into the hidden mysteries’ - This talk is based around the question: ‘When and why did the moralisation of the working tools come into our ceremonies?’ Historical overview is the early catechisms, Exposures The Grand Mystery laid open; Pritchards ‘Masonry Dissected of 1770; Three Distinct Knocks 1760 and others. Symbolism in Masonry, The Lodge is opened in the 2nd Degree; Long explanation of the 2nd Degree Working Tools. Masonic Aphorisms.</td>
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<td>4. ‘What is Freemasonry......a story worth telling, but what, to whom and why’ - This is a talk/discussion reflecting on the thoughts of three well known Masonic Canons; A cautious tale regarding openness in Fm, Gavel nights, recruitment and retention. Revd Canon Richard Tydeman... what could we share with non-masons and how much do we tell them. The Very Revd Canon Neil Collings...are we too simplistic and over defensive in our explanations. Revd Neville Barker-Cryer .. shouldn’t we just enjoy our FM, our silence and keep it to ourselves. What exactly are we really about on these Gavel Nights; how do they impact on the future of FM.</td>
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<td>WBro Malcolm Sweet PPGSwdB</td>
<td>1. The life and times of Rudyard Kipling.</td>
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<td>WBro Malcolm Wilkinson PPJGW</td>
<td>2. The rise and fall of the Knight Templar.</td>
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<td>3. Durham Cathedral.</td>
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<td><em>If you, or someone you know, is prepared to give their own lecture or lectures to lodges please contact the Provincial Grand Orator (via the Provincial website) with details i.e. name, rank and a brief description of their talk(s).</em></td>
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